



USSN: 09/929,782
Dkt. No.: PP00154.206
2300-0154.01

PATENT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.8

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12/31/03

Date

Michelle Hobson

Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

RALSTON et al.

Serial No.: 09/929,782

Filing Date: August 13, 2001

Title: ANTIBODIES TO HEPATITIS C VIRUS
ASIALOGLYCOPROTEINS

Examiner: Myron Hill

Group Art Unit: 1648

Confirmation No.: 1144

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated July 2, 2003. Applicants request a three-month extension of time for responding and attach the appropriate fee. Thus, as response filed on or before January 2, 2004 is timely filed.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.